



KENNY C. GUINN  
*Governor*

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY**  
NEVADA MEDICAID

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN  
*Director*

CHARLES DUARTE  
*Administrator*

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)  
Minutes of Public Meeting  
March 24, 2004

Agenda I The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm. by the Chairman Trudy Larson originating from Carson City with video conference to Las Vegas. Committee members were present as follows: Trudy Larson MD, Paul Boyar, and Jessie Harris. Others present in each location are listed on the attached sign in sheets. A quorum was not present no official business was transacted.

Agenda II Dr. Larson, the committee chairman, welcomed those attending both in Carson City and in Las Vegas.

Agenda IV Fiscal agent status report  
Charles Duarte, Administrator of the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy gave a broad overview of the system, its problems, solutions to the problems, progress on optimization of the system, relations with providers and recipients through the changes mandated by Federal regulations and the new HIPAA laws.

Agenda V Division Legislative initiatives  
Mr. Duarte reported the main focus for the Department of Human Resources in the next Legislative session will be the result of the Strategic Health Care Plan in the four service areas which were established as Rural, Senior Citizens, the population with developmental disabilities, and the Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Task Forces for the four areas met, identified options, and reported back to the last Legislature. DHR is working with the accountability group for each area to prepare and draft legislation to effect change. In the DD area, simplification of the eligibility process by reducing the asset testing limits, appears to be one method for change. It would allow disabled individuals quicker access to the help and services needed.

The Behavioral Health Redesign System, in which DHCFP would cooperate with MHDS and DCFS to improve access to mental health services and provide services at a lower level initially, would effectively shift costs of care to more cost efficient areas.

Other initiatives include adding to and refining some of the statutes and regulations, one of which would address the increase of the personal needs allowance monthly limit.

Dr. Larson asked if any prenatal care services were being added to the initiatives.

Mr. Duarte indicated there will be an elimination of the asset test for Children's Health Assurance Plan (CHAP) to be effective July 1, 2004, which, by Federal regulation, will allow easier access and more rapid approval for prenatal and children's services.

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The HIWAA program is still set for implementation on July 1, 2004 which will also be helpful for earlier access to services for Medicaid recipients.

Mr. Duarte also indicated the MCAC will be needed to assist the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the Drug Utilization Review Committee in the review processes of each by recruiting work groups in specific medical specialty areas.

For instance, in psychiatry and the appropriate drug use for treatment. Jeff Monaghan, Clinical Manager for First Health Services would be available to collaborate with the committee and/or sub committee.

Because no quorum could be established, no further items could be discussed.

The Chairman asked members of the public in attendance if they wished to comment.

In Las Vegas two mothers of disabled children, Marina Valdez and Margaret Dunn, spoke regarding the Home Health Care hours they receive for their children, and the fact that First Health Services is cutting the hours per week in a manner which appears to be arbitrary and unfair.

Jeri Bennett, DHCFP Supervisor of Home Health Care Services commented from Carson City, that the issue was related to Chapter 900 and not the Chapter 1400 which had been proposed for review at this meeting.

Dr. Larson directed the discussion on Chapter 900 be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 16, 2004, at 1:00pm; however Deputy Attorney General Darrell Faircloth suggested that another meeting be called within a month of this date, with appropriate 3-day notice of the meeting, to complete the business of the agenda with an appropriate quorum present. Nancy Davis of DHCFP Compliance Unit will contact committee members to arrange a suitable date.

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The meeting closed at 1:40pm.

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**For additional details, there is an electronic recording available of this meeting.**